

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03480 270718Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 /058 W
-----094359 270721Z /14

R 270530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8335
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CNO WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3480

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI
SUBJECT: KUWAITI HELICOPTER RECOVERED; RUMORS OF
COVERUP OF CRASH CIRCUMSTANCES

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3224 (130945Z JUN 77),
(B) KUWAIT 3243 (140900Z JUN 77),
(C) KUWAIT 3316 (181420Z JUN 77),
(D) KUWAIT 3358 (201240Z JUN 77).

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. REFTELS AND MESSAGES FROM
COMIDEASTFOR TO ADDRESSEES DESCRIBED THE CRASH OF A
KUWAITI AIR FORCE HELICOPTER IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON
JUNE 12, WITH THE LOSS OF TWO LIVES, THE ROLE OF
COMIDEASTFOR ASSETS IN SAR ASSISTANCE, AND THE
APPRECIATION OF THE GOK AND THIS EMBASSY FOR SUCH
ASSISTANCE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE
LOST HELICOPTER WITH TWO CORPSES INSIDE WAS FOUND
AND RECOVERED ON JUNE 22 OFF QARUH ISLAND (REF A),
ABOUT 30 MILES OFF THE COAST, BY DIVERS EMPLOYED BY
COMMERCIAL CONTRACTOR. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE REASON WHY THE HELICOPTER
WAS FLYING DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 12 HAS NEVER
BEEN SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED. SHORTLY AFTER THE
CRASH, WE HEARD THAT IT WAS ON A MISSION TO PICK UP
SOME YOUNG SHAIKH OF THE RULING FAMILY AND HIS
FISHING PARTY WHO DECIDED THAT THE WEATHER HAD

GOTTEN TOO BAD FOR THEM TO RETURN TO KUWAIT BY
BOAT FROM QARUH ISLAND. THIS REPORT INDICATED THAT
QUESTIONS WERE BEING ASKED AS TO WISDOM OF THE
DECISION WHICH JEOPARDIZED LIVES OF AIR FORCE
PERSONNEL FOR THE PERSONAL CONVENIENCE OF A RULING
FAMILY MEMBER, WHO COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE SPENT
THE NIGHT IN THE POLICE POST ON THE ISLAND. SINCE
THIS INITIAL REPORT, THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT
RUMORS ALONG THESE SAME LINES AND, FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE THE CRASH, THERE HAS BEEN A PRESS
ARTICLE (AL SIYASAH, JUNE 25) QUESTIONING WHETHER
THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVEALED ALL PERTINENT INFORMA-
TION SURROUNDING THE CRASH. IF THE RULING FAMILY
WAS INDEED INVOLVED, EVEN AS A MERE CONTRIBUTING
CAUSE OF THIS TRAGIC AFFAIR, WE WOULD EXPECT THE MATTER
TO BE DROPPED BY THE PRESS. END CONFIDENTIAL.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HELICOPTERS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT03480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0663
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770615/aaaaamp.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4359da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 3224, 77 KUWAIT 3243, 77 KUWAIT 3316
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2023429
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI HELICOPTER RECOVERED: RUMORS OF COVERUP OF CRASH CIRCUMSTANCES
TAGS: MILI, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4359da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009